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## Cover, Title Page, Staff List, Editors' Note, Table of Contents, Notes About the Visual Art in Volume XI

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# THE OVAL VOL. XI



# THE OVAL

Volume XI · 2018



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*The Oval* accepts electronic submissions of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and visual arts. Only current undergraduate students may submit. For more information, visit *The Oval's* website.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

In the wake of an infamous year, the emerging artists at the University of Montana have pulled together to create a collective work that proves passion will carry us through. For many of our contributors and editors, *The Oval*, Volume XI marks their first publication. This periodical shows that our education and innovation within the humanities can and will materialize in beautiful ways. We are proud to toss out taboos and reclaim our identities. *The Oval* is the place to explore the diverse perspectives of our undergraduate student body. The communities we left behind, the ones we brought with and the ones which we built together seep through the pages of this magazine. Through those talented peers who supplied the contents of *Volume XI* and those who worked to transform them, I've glimpsed a better future. One in which our voices ring individually and resound as a whole. If you haven't found your community yet, I welcome you to join ours, to meet the characters and artists which make up our ninety-six pages. You always belong here.

*The Oval* is only made possible by the generosity of the ASUM senators and executives, the Mansfield Library, Karin Schalm, the Creative Writing Program, the English Department, Ken Price and the staff at UM Printing & Graphics and Kevin Head and the annual Writers' Fall Opus. These behind the scenes motivators are invaluable. Thank you.

Thank you, to our faculty advisor Robert Stubblefield who has given each of us, myself especially, the courage and the confidence to believe in our abilities as young people, as non-traditional students, as professionals and scholars. Your thoughtfulness and compassion is a saving grace in the gritty world of academia. Thank you to Carlos Medina, without whom Robert Stubblefield could never have survived our nonsense. Special thanks to our Technological Administrator, Shannon Janssen for her vast knowledge, technical and moral support. You are the left half of our collective brain, and without you, this would have never come together. To the gifted Hunter Raab, our Design and Layout Editor, thank you for taking Word documents and turning them into, after countless hours of work, a singular work of art in and of itself.

I'm particularly grateful to my peers. Thank you to those brilliant editors who sifted through hundreds of submissions and produced something truly reflective of the University's potential. Everyone who submitted to this year's edition, thank you for making our choices so difficult. Your brilliance surpassed every expectation we had going into this. I'm personally honored to have worked alongside you, and with all your works.

Courtney Coburn  
Editor-in-Chief

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# NOTES ABOUT POETRY & VISUAL ART

Both the poems MY FINE CHINA, and FORGET ME NOT have been modified to preserve the poet's original form. MY FINE CHINA uses Calluna at size 9.5, and FORGET ME NOT uses Calluna at size 8 font.

In order to honor each artist's aesthetic, the visual artworks in this year's volume are not accompanied by titles or names. If you like a piece, please refer back to the Table of Contents.

**UNTITLED 8X8**, the cover for this issue, was created by Elisabeth Buick and digitally manipulated by Luke Larkin.

**UNTITLED, STILL**, by Kelaiah Horat: Acrylic paint and ballpoint pen.

**SELF-PORTRAIT NO. 1**, by Savannah Stewart: Photography with digital manipulation

**LIFE IN COLOR**, by Kelaiah Horat: Watercolor and Ballpoint Pen

**BOY IN COLOUR**, by Kaden Harrison: Photography- for this piece two half-filled fish tanks were used to disperse fluorescent lighting over a series of colored stage lights and household lamps.

**CHRYSLIS**, by Gabrielle Tusberg: Collage- this piece was created with photos of the artist's childhood.

